

WIRELESS REGULATORY UPDATE

Federal Wireless Users' Forum
Workshop

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WHO AM I?

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NTIA FUNCTIONS

- Established in 1978 by Executive Order 12046, a combination of OTP and DTM
- Executive branch (non-independent) agency
- President's principal adviser on telecommunications and information
- Manages all spectrum reserved for federal government use

NTIA FUNCTIONS con't

- Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC)
- Participates with State Department and FCC in international telecommunications activities
- Administers telecommunications grant programs for infrastructure development and public television
- Telecommunications Research Laboratory

FCC FUNCTIONS

- Independent Regulatory Agency
- Does not report to the President
- Five commissioners appointed by President
- Quasi-Legislative and Quasi-Judicial Roles
- Authority granted and limited by the Communications Act of 1934, amended by Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Subject to Administrative Procedures Act and Judicial Review

PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

- Represents NTIA in federal, state and local public safety telecommunications fora
- Specifically, coordinates efforts to implement Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) recommendations on spectrum requirements of public safety entities through the year 2010.
- Involved in PSWAC, FLEWUG, NCC, PSWN, etc.

WIRELESS REGULATIONS

- Communications Act of 1934
- Telecommunications Act of 1996
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act of 1992
- Spectrum allocation and assignments
- “Public Interest” standard
- Administrative decision making and review

WHAT'S GOING ON

- Energy, Water, and Railroad Spectrum Usage Report
- Alternative Spectrum Use Report
- All-Hazard Warning Systems
- Wireless Enhanced 911 (E911)
- 3G
- User Knowledge

ENERGY, WATER, AND RAILROAD REPORT

- Public Law 106-553, The Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2001.
- Mandated NTIA to perform a study and report findings to Congress regarding spectrum usage by providers of energy, water and railroad services.
- Requested comments from federal agencies and the public.
- Did not receive enough information to make any recommendations.

ALTERNATIVE SPECTRUM USE REPORT

- Title XVII, Section 1705 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2001
- Mandated NTIA to submit a report to Congress regarding alternative frequencies for use by state and local public safety agencies.
- Identified the 162-174 MHz and 406.1-420 MHz bands as alternative frequencies.
- However, NTIA has concluded these frequencies cannot be provided.
- Reason, adverse impact on crucial missions of federal public safety agencies.

ALL-HAZARD WARNING SYSTEMS

- Multi-Agency Working Group: NTIA, FCC, FEMA, USDA, NOAA, GSA, etc.
- Save lives with repetitive warnings thru as many telecommunications devices as possible.
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Other telecommunications devices
- Roundtable Homepage URL:
www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/warnings
- NTIA participates in the Partnership for Public Warnings

E911

- Phase I: Automatic Number Identification (ANI)
 - As of April 1, 1998, or within 6 months of a PSAP request, whichever is later, carriers will provide telephone number of the 911 caller and the cell site location of the 911 call.

E911 con't

- Phase II: Automatic Location Identification (ALI)
 - New rules since October 2001.
 - AT&T Wireless: E-OTD, Oct. 1, 2003
 - Cingular Wireless: E-OTD, Dec. 31, 2005
 - Nextel: A-GPS, Dec. 31, 2005
 - Sprint PCS: A-GPS, Dec. 31, 2005
 - Verizon Wireless: A-GPS, Dec. 31, 2005
 - E-OTD: accurate within 100 m at 67% of calls and 300 m at 95% of calls.
 - A-GPS: accurate within 50 m at 67% of calls and 150 m at 95% of calls.
- PSAP have to request
- Roamers must have Phase I service

E911 con't

- Non-initialized phone rules:
 - 911-Only phones
 - Labeled that 911 calls will not have call-back feature.
 - Educate consumers of 911-Only phones and non-initialized phones.
- Quarterly Reports of implementation plan
- Recent developments:
 - Location-Based Services vs. Privacy
 - 47 CFR §20.18

THIRD GENERATION

- Combines two of the world's most powerful innovations, the Internet and Wireless Communications
- Important to U.S. economic development and balance of trade
- NTIA and Federal agencies are now focused on 1710 – 1770 MHz band.
- FCC is focusing on 2110-2170 MHz band.

USER'S KNOWLEDGE

- Not just how much spectrum you need and where you want it.
- FCC's public convenience, interest or necessity requirement.
- NTIA's beneficial use in the public interest requirement.
- What does the public interest in telecommunications permit or require the FCC and NTIA to do with spectrum and use?
- Need proper standards for measuring the public interest and workable techniques for applying these standards.

GET IT ON THE WEB

- www.ntia.doc.gov
- www.fcc.gov
 - Find info on:
 - 3G
 - Ultrawide Band
 - Reports and proceedings documents

Questions?

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